

# The National Park Service



## Our Mission

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

# Overview: Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program extends and expands the benefits of the National Park Service to communities throughout the nation.

Our national network of conservation and recreation planning professionals partners with community groups, nonprofits, tribes, and state and local governments to design trails and parks, conserve and improve access to rivers, protect special places, and create recreation opportunities.



Midwest Region RTCA Offices

# Grants and Support We Provide Communities

When a community asks for assistance with a project through our application, National Park Service staff provide free, on-location facilitation and planning expertise. We draw from project experiences across the country and adapt best practices to a community's specific needs.

Our staff help:

- Define project vision and goals
- Inventory and map community resources
- Identify and analyze key issues and opportunities
- Engage collaborative partners and stakeholders
- Design community outreach and participation strategies
- Develop concept plans for trails, parks, and natural areas
- Set priorities and build consensus
- Identify funding sources
- Develop a sustainable organizational framework to support the project

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/apply.htm>

# More NPS Grants and Support

*The Land and Water Conservation Fund was established by Congress in 1964 to fulfill a bipartisan commitment to safeguard our natural areas, water resources and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. Using zero taxpayer dollars, the fund invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to help strengthen communities, preserve our history and protect our national endowment of lands and waters.*

*The LWCF program can be divided into the "State Side" which provides grants to State and local governments, and the "Federal Side" which is used to acquire lands, waters, and interests therein necessary to achieve the natural, cultural, wildlife, and recreation management objectives of federal land management agencies.*

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/index.htm>

# RTCA Contacts

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

## **Illinois Project Office**

Diane Banta

diane\_banta@nps.gov

Cell 708-280-3890

Mike Mencarini

michael\_mencarini@nps.gov

Cell 312-833-8280

## **Indiana Project Office**

Rory Robinson

rory\_robinson@nps.gov

Office 330-657-2951

Cell 216-280-7816

## **Michigan Project Office**

Barbara Nelson-Jameson

barbara\_nelson-jameson@nps.gov

Office 231-326-4795

Cell 231-883-2272

## **Minnesota Project Office**

Holly Larson

holly\_larson@nps.gov

Office 651-293-8444

Randy Thoreson

randy\_thoreson@nps.gov

Office 651-293-8450

## **Ohio Field Office**

Andrea Irland

andrea\_irland@nps.gov

Office 330-657-2378

## **Wisconsin Project Office**

Angie Tornes

angie\_tornes@nps.gov

Office 414-297-3605

Cell 414-708-7075